The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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GIVE, GIVE ENOUGH To Your Community Chest

WHOLE NO. 1961 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1948 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 38, NO. 45

Value of LLPE Campaign Highlighted In Analysis Of Great Election Victory

Washington.—The following analysis of final election returns confirms the astounding success won by Labor's League for Political Education in its campaign to turn out of office all of the foes of labor who supported the Taft-Hartley law.

THE SENATE

The Senate of the 81st Congress will have a sizable Democratic majority as shown in the following recapitulation:

Democrats	54
Republicans	42
Democratic majority	12

In the Senate races, a total of 32 seats were at stake. Of these only 4 were held by prolabor incumbents who supported labor on the Taft-Hartley law. All were reelected.

Of the remaining 28 seats at stake, 27 were previously held by anti-labor Senators. Seventeen of these 27 will not return to the Senate.

The following sums up the results of LLPE campaigns in the Senate races:

Total seats at stake	32
Prolabor incumbents reelected	4
New friends of labor elected	13

THE HOUSE

Composition of the House is as follows:

Democrats	263
Republicans	171
American-Laborite	1
Democratic majority	92

A total of 172 candidates backed by LLPE were elected.

On the Taft-Hartley law issue, 106 Representatives who supported the measure will not return to the House in the 81st Congress. They were not returned for the following reasons:

Defeated at the polls	65
Defeated in primary elections	14
Did not run for reelection	27

American Federation of Musicians Offers to Provide Music at Inaugural

New York.—President Truman's inauguration next January will be marked by the greatest musical serenade in Washington history, according to a proposal made to the President in a congratulatory message from James C. Petrillo, head of the American Federation of Musicians.

Massed bands of outstanding musicians would perform during the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, the swearing in ceremonies at the Capitol, the inaugural ball and other events, according to preliminary plans announced by the union chief.

Petrillo's offer would make the inauguration the second occasion on which the union has provided music for President Truman and notables of the Washington scene. Last May the federation launched its 1948 free public music program with a symphony concert in Washington at which the President and high government and labor leaders were honored guests.

Subsequently Petrillo was one of the ranking labor leaders in President Truman's campaign party to lend his public endorsement and campaign effort. As a convention delegate-at-large Petrillo seconded the President Truman's nomination at Philadelphia.

In his wire to the President Petrillo stated:

"Two hundred and thirty two thousand of your fellow musicians are united in every way to the White House as our most unfettered President in history. Our hearts, our thoughts and our efforts have been with you in your epic battle to preserve our national policy of progressive democracy. With your approval our members of the American Federation of Musicians will begin immediately to plan a program for Inauguration Day that will mark the date as a day of harmony in music as it will most certainly be in our nation's history."

Taft, Sailing For Europe, Says T-H Law To Stay

Washington.—Two days after the election which resulted in the crushing defeat of the Republican Party's 80th Congress, sailed for Europe, standard-bearer of the reprobates of the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Taft.

Interviewed aboard the Italian liner Vulcania at a 22-day vacation trip on which he hoped to forget, the Senator had several words of wisdom for reporters gathered to see him off.

Despite the mandate from the people for repeal of the "slave labor" Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Taft declared that the law won't be "watered down" at the next session.

No Senators would vote against repeal of the law, he threw back amendments to the law, he threw back the usual GOP party-line comment.

"We are quite ready to consider amendments," he said.

On politics, the senator played it coy. Questioned on the Republican picture for 1952, he replied:

"I'll first have to get re-elected."

Perhaps, from the depths of the Swiss alps, Senator Taft may be able to look back, as is his custom, and finally get the right perspective on the political scene in the United States.

MEMBER OF STAGE UNION ELECTED TO CONGRESS

New York.—Roy W. Wier, Democrat-Farm-Laborite elected by a majority from Minnesota's Third District, is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators, Local No. 13, Minneapolis.

Backed by Labor's League for Political Education, of which International Representative Richard F. Walsh is an Administrative Committee member, Wier won in a landslide over the incumbent, George MacKinnon, Republican who voted to override President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Wier joined Local 13 in March of 1914 and has been secretary of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union for the past 25 years. He formerly held a seat in the Minnesota State Legislature and at present is secretary of the Minneapolis Board of Education.

LABOR RELATIONS MODEL SET IN BUILDING TRADES

New York.—Labor-management relations in the building industry here are an example for the "strong-arm" of industrial relations in other industries, Peter W. Eller, president of the Building Trades Employers' Association, declared.

Mr. Eller is a former national referee of the AFL's Building and Construction Trades Department.

Writing in the November issue of the Elks magazine, Mr. Eller describes the effective plan for the prevention of jurisdictional strikes in force in New York, and declares that since 1937 there have been only 3 serious strikes on construction work covered by agreement accepted by 200,000 mechanics.

AFL CAFETERIA WORKERS WIN NEW WAGE INCREASE

New York.—Five thousand AFL cafeteria workers have received an across-the board increase, retroactive to December 1, 1948, and an additional $1 and $2 increase on minimums, effective Jan. 1, 1949, in a three-year new agreement between Cafeteria Employers Council, Local 302, Affiliated Restaurateurs, Inc., representing 40 cafeteria owners.

The signing of this year's agreement is especially significant because this marks the 10th anniversary of negotiations by powerful labor-management relations between the union and the association.

During the 10-year period, the parties negotiated and signed 9 agreements without a single strike or stoppage. Nathan Schlossberg, in his 10-year period, did the parties the honor of serving as Impartial Chairman. Mr. Arthur J. Meyer, chairman of the Association's Mediation Board, acted as an mediator in the negotiations.

CORPORATIONS PILE UP HUGE CAPITAL RESERVE

Washington.—Corporations must be paying more and bigger "strong boxes" to accommodate their accumulating cash hoards. At least, that's the picture conjured up by a Securities and Exchange Commission report.

"Net working capital" is cash, government bonds and other assets which are practically the same as cash. It does not include the value of the plants and equipment owned by the corporations.

From $24,500,000,000 in 1939, the report shows corporations' "net working capital" went up rapidly and steadily in the war and postwar years, to $60,400,000,000 at the end of September, 1947.

Truman to Send Message to AFL Meet; Tobin, Hoffman, Ching on Speakers' List

Washington.—Speakers at the opening sessions of the AFL's 67th annual convention are expected to throw the spotlight on outstanding domestic and foreign problems.

President Truman has informed the AFL that he will be unable to come to the convention but will send a special message.

AFL President William Green announced that he has invited Vice-President-elect Barkley and Senator-elect Robert Humphrey, of Minnesota, to address the convention. Other speakers who already have accepted invitations include:

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul Hoffman, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director Cyrus S. Ching, Assistant to the President John R. Steelman, National Commander Perry Brown of the American Legion, and Commander-in-Chief Lyall T. Beggs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Special reports will be made to the convention by Irving Brown and Henry Rutz, the AFL's European representatives and 5 representatives of German and Austrian trade unions, who have come to the United States at the AFL's invitation. They are Adolf Lindwig, Markus Schlichter, Fritz Dahlman, Ernst Scharrowsky—all of Germany—and Franz Olah of Austria.

The British Trade Union Congress will send 2 fraternal delegates as usual. They are Herbert L. Bullock of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers and a member of the BTUC General Council, and Herbert W. Huddleston of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

In addition, the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress will send a fraternal delegate.

Soaring Cost of Living Wiped Out Most of Wage Gains Won Since V-J Day

Washington.—Soaring prices more than offset increased gains in gross weekly and hourly earnings and have nearly wiped out all advances in wage rates since V-J Day, according to data made available by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This was revealed in a BLS report showing that manufacturing wage rates increased by 8.7 percent between October, 1947, and September, 1948.

These latest increases, added to the larger gains in each of the preceding 2 years, bring the total increase in manufacturing wage rates to 19 percent after V-J Day, to approximately 43 percent.

Wages have shown a continued rise in virtually all industries and areas. The smallest gains have been made in the textile industries where rates in April of this year, made a 3-year gain of 5½ percent.

These estimates of recent changes are based on a survey of total straight-time earnings and hours of about 2,000 manufacturing establishments.

In contrast to the 45-percent rise in wage rates, from 1939 to 1948, factory workers averaged only 30 percent more in take-home pay. The reason is that the cost of living has risen by 70 percent.

Labor, Chamber of Commerce Counsel Urge Law Rejecting Overtime Decision

New York.—Spokesmen for the AFL's Longshoremen's Association and the United States Chamber of Commerce united in urging action by Congress to nullify the Fair Labor Standards Amendment overtime decision of the Supreme Court.

Louis Waldman, general counsel for the union, and John W. Whitehead, labor relations attorney for the chamber, made their position known before a meeting of the Book Manufacturers' Institute.

The decision, handed down in June and put into effect by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor on Oct. 24, arose from a case involving the longshoremen and the Bay Ridge and Huron Shipping Companies.

The court ruled that workers on night and week end shifts who had been receiving premium rates for those undesirable hours were entitled to a week—to time and one-half pay for that overtime, based on the premium rate.

This had been termed "overtime-on-overtime" although the majority opinion of the court avoided that expression.

The court decided that the night workers' "regular rate of pay" included the premium and that when they put in no more than 40 hours a week their overtime pay should be based on the higher rate.

Mr. Whitehead suggested that the Wage-Hour law be amended by the Congress to make it clear that existing bona fide agreements with unions for a premium rate above the legal minimum and an overtime rate of time and one-half of the regular rate should be deemed in compliance with the law.

He said the decision affected many industries in addition to shippers, and called it "disastrous to employers and unions alike."

Employment Remains Above 60,000,000; October Is 5th Month to Exceed Figure

Washington.—Employment remained above the 60,000,000 mark for the fifth consecutive month, according to reports of the Census Bureau.

Bureau estimates put the total at 60,134,000 jobs which reflects a drop of 178,000 from September, but is 1,000,000 higher than a year ago.

Unemployment, meanwhile dropped 267,000 to an October total of 2,064,000, lowest point of the year, the bureau said. That was 45,000 under a year ago.

The return of young workers to school was largely responsible for the small dip in employment, the bureau explained. It added that a larger number of adult males were employed in October than in September.

Nonfarm employment, estimated at 51,506,000 October, was 84,000 below September but 923,000 above a year ago.

There was a decline of 96,000 in farm employment between September and October to a total of 8,627,000 for the month which total was 8,000 higher than last year.

Those employed as farmers and the number of women holding jobs or looking for work. Their total in the labor force was down during the year from 31 to 32 out of each 100 persons. Twenty-four years old was described as an "unusually large change" for a 1-year period.

ITU MEMBERS REJECT PAY HIKE FOR OFFICERS

Indianapolis.—Members of the AFL's International Typographical Union voted down a proposal to increase salaries of its top officers, it was announced at ITU headquarters here.

The proposed boosts called for increases from $10,000 to $12,000 each for Mr. Hurd and Woodruff Randolph, president, and from $7,500 to $9,500 for Larry Taylor, Elmer Brown and Joseph Bailey, vice-presidents.

MORE WOMEN EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURAL WORK

Washington.—The decline in the number of women employed in nonfarm jobs in September was more than offset by increased employment in agricultural work, the Bureau of the Census reported.

Women in nonfarm work numbered 19,600,000, a drop of 335,000 workers since August, the bureau said. In agricultural work, 697,000 more women were employed than in September 1947.

VETS JOB RIGHTS ACCRUE EQUALLY TO ALL PERSONS

Washington.—The Selective Service Act of 1948 contains no provision discriminating between persons on active duty in the armed forces from nonveterans, according to draft service, age, or the deferment and exemption provisions of the statutes, according to a statement issued by Robert K. Salyers, Director of Veterans' and Reemployment Rights, Department of Labor.

"Although Section 4 of the act provides that in the event of conflict between the age of 19 and 26 shall be inducted first, Salyers said, "Persons eligible for deferment or exemption for any reason but who enter upon active duty in the armed forces will have the same reemployment rights, if otherwise qualified."

Salyers pointed out that women who enter upon active duty in the WACS, Waves or Marine Corps are entitled to all of the reemployment benefits provided for men.

Green Sees Repeal of T-H Law First Move For 81st Congress

Election Victory Seen Insuring LLPE's Future

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and a member of the administrative committee of Labor's League for Political Education, said that the victory over reaction on November 2 has put labor "on the political map permanently.

"Before Nov. 2," said Mr. Dubinsky, "labor considered its economic strength as sufficient to combat anti-labor forces. But the Taft-Hartley Act came along and seriously weakened that economic strength. Labor now realizes its strength must be used on the political front as well as the economic front."

Mr. Dubinsky's statement came during the post-election jubilation in this city where the local branch of Labor's League for Political Education was the most vigorous and effective prolabor committee of Congress and the election in their stead of men pledged to work for the repeal of that law. Another note of joy came from the fact that the ex-Congressmen left of the New York LLPE helped elect virtually every one of labor's candidates.

The 4 Congressmen on labor's "purchase roll" for voting for the T-H law who were defeated were Dan Reed, Dwight L. M. Hall, Clarence McMahon, Robert Nodar, Jr., and Robert T. Ross, of Queens.

In his statement, Mr. Dubinsky said that the election eliminated any doubt which might exist about LLPE, and indicated that it would henceforth be "a far-larger organization."

Mr. Dubinsky attributed the election of President Truman to a "fight-in-front" and "everything-angered" mood of the American voter. This rage, angered respectively because of the Taft-Hartley law, high prices and high taxes.

"These 3 groups, as well as the people who resented being taken for granted, went out to vote against the GOP," he said.

Another aspect of the election results, said Mr. Dubinsky, was that the electorate defied "the line" as handed down from the top to "toe the line of a third party."

"Wallace was repudiated by 2,000,000 votes," he said, "on the basis of his name alone but he lost out because of his Communist association. It is time for real progressives, liberals and independents who see no harm in associating with Communists."

1948 Journalism Awards Are Announced By International Labor Press of America

Newark, N. J.—Winners of the 1948 Journalism awards given annually by the International Labor Press of America were announced here by Lewis M. Herrmann, secretary-treasurer of the ILPA and editor of the organization's 37th annual convention.

AFL President William Green will present the awards at a banquet concluding the convention which will be held here in Claridge House.

Winners selected by the LPA's special committee on awards are as follows:

Intl. Union Publications—Magazine Format

Editorial excellence—1st prize: Maintenance of Way Employes' Journal; 2d prize: Building Service Employes' Magazine; 3d prize: Machinist.

Excellence in typography and press-work—1st prize: Butcher Workman; 2d prize: Building Service Employes' Magazine; 3d prize: Retail Clerk Advocate.

Weekly Labor Papers Format

Editorial excellence—1st prize: Hat Worker; 2d prize: Paper Maker; 3d prize: Southern Patriot.

Excellence in typography and presswork—1st prize: Textile Worker; 2d prize: Textile Challenger; 3d prize: Chemical Worker.

Weekly Labor Papers

Editorial excellence—1st prize: Colorado Labor Advocate; 2d prize: Detroit Labor News; 3d prize: Oregon Unionist.

Excellency in typography and presswork—1st prize Colorado Labor Advocate; 2d prize: Detroit Labor News; 3d prize: Fresno Labor Citizen.

Special Awards

Best single editorial—1st prize: Seafarers' Log; 2d prize: Texas Monthly Journal; 3d prize: Union Leader.

Best original cartoon—1st prize: Machinists' Monthly Journal; 2d prize: Seafarers' Log.

Best pictorial display—1st prize: Butcher Workman; 2d prize: Textile Challenger; 3d prize: Building Service Employe.

Best front page—news style—1st prize: Detroit Labor News; 2d prize: Oregon Treasurer; 3d prize: Textile Challenger.

Art or pictorial—1st prize Butcher Workman; 2d prize: Machinists' Monthly Journal; 3d prize: Seafarers' Log.

Best feature article—1st prize: Hat Worker; 2d prize: Machinists' Monthly Employe; 3d prize: Electrical Workers' Journal.

Best special column—1st prize: Labor; 2d prize: Machinists' Monthly Journal; 3d prize: Textile Challenger; 3d prize: Retail Clerks Advocate.

The committee on awards was headed by Jack D. Powers, president of the Commercial Telegrapher, and included Ben Fullwood, Jr., of the Georgia Clerk; Paul J. Hutchings, Office Workers' Journal; Harry Bradford (Pa.) Union; John P. Redmond, Fire Fighter; David Ditch, Tandem (N. J.) Union Reporter; Bernard Tassler, American Federationist; Ruth Taylor, Labor columnist; Fred S. Walker, (Washington, D. C.) Trades Unionist; and K. C. Adams, United Mine Workers Journal.

Election Outcome Gave Mandate for Action, AFL Leader Says

Wellesley Hills, Mass.—AFL President William Green declared that Congress, now that it has a real mandate from the American people, should make repeal of the Taft-Hartley law the first order of business when it convenes in January.

Mr. Green's call for action was made before the annual Industrial Business Conference sponsored by the Babson Institute. He was scheduled to debate the Taft-Hartley law issue with one of the framers of that measure, Representative Fred A. Hartley, Mr. Hartley did not take part in the debate because of a sore throat.

"The Taft-Hartley law must be repealed," the AFL leader said, "if our country is to remain strong and free, if we are to have real national unity and harmonious labor-management relations in our land, if we hope to preserve the free enterprise system of America and eliminate class warfare."

Hailing the recent election victory of the Democrats as a triumph over reactionary forces, Mr. Green emphasized the fact that the anti-labor law was a prominent issue in the political campaign. The major parties were on opposite sides of the fence in this race, he said, unlike the 1946 congressional campaign when labor legislation was not made an issue by either Democrats or Republicans. Mr. Green asserted that is why the 1946 election cannot be used as a unmistakable mandate from the American people to repeal the Taft-Hartley law.

Lashing out at the 80 vicious provisions of the law which restrict the right of government by injunction, force labor to destroy itself by denying the right to secondary boycotts, and individual bargaining instead of collective bargaining, Mr. Green declared that the American Federation of Labor and many other objectionable features of the statute have produced ill effects for the nation. He said:

"Under the Taft-Hartley law strong-and-good relations between labor and management in many industries, notably in the printing trades.

"Secondly, it has encouraged the movement of various industries from high-wage areas to low-wage unorganized sections of the country. Businesses leave the New England area and many other objectionable features of the statute have produced ill effects for the nation. He said:

"Third, the Taft-Hartley Act has increased federal government interference in labor-management relations to an extent never before known. It has made that agency the most powerful antagonists of federal regulation of labor relations. The principal reason for the Taft-Hartley Act which would transform the agency into a czar-dom, if it remained on the statute books. Administration of the Taft-Hartley Act was loaded against labor, for authority was given to the agency in the amount of federal restrictions its control.

"Finally, and most important, the Taft-Hartley Act has aroused the bitter resentment of the working men and women of this country. They have not been misled by the propaganda appealing to the people of the country by one-sided, repressive legislation.

Representative Fred A. Hartley, Jr., co-author of the Taft-Hartley Act, declared that the 80,000,000 members of the American labor movement "will be carry the ball in defense of the Taft-Hartley law" instead of tripping us up with foul tactics like the Taft-Hartley Act."

ARIZONA VOTERS BACK STATE CLOSED-SHOP BAN

Washington.— Voters in Arizona rejected another legislative effort to by proving an enabling act under the Taft-Hartley law authorizing repeal of the state's constitution.

The legislature approved by the electorate would; prohibit any compulsion connected with joining a labor union or strike against his will; prohibit conspiracies to violate the act; provide that any person injured or threatened with injury by any illegal act shall be entitled to injunctive relief; provide that any person violating provisions of the act shall be liable for damages to the person injured.

The original amendment, which the Arizona State Federation of Labor contended was unconstitutional, is scheduled for hearing before the United States Supreme Court.

Tobin Favors Abolition Of Ban On Closed Shop

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin declared that he favored the abolition of the ban on the closed shop as provided in the new labor legislation.

He would prefer, however, known at a press conference here at which he said he would prepare recommendations on labor legislation for submission to President Truman.

Mr. Tobin declared that any new labor statute that he favored to replace the Taft-Hartley law would be one which he considered practical. "I will definitely have to restore the closed shop." That point was discussed in any drafting of a new labor law which would be fair to labor and industry, he asserted.

As for employee elections for union-shop authorizations, Secretary Tobin said he did not believe that management would care whether or not such a provision was in the law.

Since union-shop elections have been favored by overwhelming votes, this aspect of the Taft-Hartley law "is a joke," he declared. Most independent supporters have for some time been willing to jettison it.

Recalling the Democratic platform's pledge to repeal the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Tobin explained that his memorandum for President Truman would be intended to "help implement the platform" and the campaign message to Congress of President Truman.

The secretary indicated that he would confer informally with labor and industry spokesmen, as the occasion required, to ascertain their views on labor legislation.

STOCK SLUMP LAID TO DEMOCRATIC WIN

New York.—Selling orders from large and small investors throughout the country flooded the New York Stock Exchange in the sharpest market break since September 8, 1946. It was attributed principally to the Democratic election sweep.

Leadflig issues were knocked down 2 to more than 6 points and, on a basis of the total number of shares listed on the big board, it was estimated that at least $3,000,000,000 in value was wiped out.

LABOR FORCE IN FRANCE LACKS SKILLED WORKERS

Paris.—Nine out of every 10 unemployed persons in France are men without special training, according to the national survey of labor statistics.

Labor experts label the shortage as a direct result of war, prison camps, and deportations which prevented Frenchmen from a trade or profession. To combat this deficiency, the ministry of labor has organized trade schools which last year graduated 20,000 skilled men and which expected to raise this level to 32,000 in 1948.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1948

GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

GIVE, GIVE ENOUGH To Your Community Chest

Important Highlights From Council Report

For Release Nov. 11th:

Cincinnati.—Two chief targets bore the brunt of labor's attacks in the report of the Executive Council to the AFL's 67th annual convention here—the reactionary record of the 80th Congress and the aggressive record of Soviet Russia's foreign policy.

The Executive Council report, covering 195 printed pages, can be summed up as a call for action—action to preserve world peace and action to restore liberal government in America.

With the sweeping congressional election victories that were attained less than two weeks ago, the convention faced the task of drafting a liberal legislative program for the 81st Congress in a highly optimistic spirit.

A summary of the Executive Council's report on outstanding topics follows:

TAFT-HARTLEY ACT

At the time of its passage in June, 1947, leaders of organized labor stated that this punitive and prohibitive legislation was designed to destroy, and would be used eventually by employers, in an attempt to destroy, the trade union movement of this country. The accuracy of these statements has been demonstrated even though the act has not been in existence long enough for organized labor to feel the full extent of the evils that act has set afloat. The only cure for the Taft-Hartley Act is its outright repeal and the reenactment of the original National Labor Relations Act.

INFLATION

The continued rise in prices has presented Congress and the country with the No. 1 domestic problem—inflation. One regular and two special sessions of Congress failed to attempt to cope with this problem. An effective anti-inflation program is vital to the nation's economic health.

HOUSING

Congress has thus far failed to do the job. The American Federation of Labor must spare no effort to secure the enactment of a comprehensive, long-range housing program when the next Congress meets.

MINIMUM WAGE

Raising the minimum wage level continues to be a primary legislative aim of the AFL. The 80th Congress ended its session without meeting this urgent need.

TAXATION

The over-all effect of the new tax law is to relieve taxpayers in the income groups over $2,000 a year the bulk of the savings. The tax burden should be lightened on those in the low income brackets.

SALES TAX

It is recommended that we continue our policy of opposing such a tax with all our might.

EDUCATION

We have advocated and we continue to advocate federal appropriations to aid state systems and to equalize opportunities for all, irrespective of the income of the family in which children are born, of racial origin, of color, of their religion or their race. We should redouble our efforts in the next session of Congress to obtain enactment of this much-needed legislation.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Experience makes it absolutely clear that to assure healthy economic growth of the nation, to safeguard and sustain the general welfare of the people of America, it is the duty of the legislative branch of our government to uphold the principles of equal opportunity for all, a principle to which this nation is dedicated. We supported anti-lynching, anti-poll tax and fair employment practice legislation in the past and intensified our efforts be made in the next session of Congress to advance these objectives.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The 80th Congress failed to improve the nation's social security structure. Prompt action is necessary to broaden coverage of this insurance and to increase benefits. The AFL found unsatisfactory for enactment of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill and will renew the fight in the next Congress. One of the major gaps existing in our social insurance program is the lack of health insurance. Action to provide it is vital to the nation's welfare.

EUROPEAN RECOVERY PROGRAM

The enactment of the European Recovery Program is tremendously important. It gives hope to the free peoples of the world for a united free world. The AFL believes that our representatives in Europe should advocate use of recovery funds to help restore democratic governments and economies of various states. We believe such plans for economic recovery in Europe constitute an important step in checking the spread of communism in all regions and in checking plans to impose Communism on other countries.

It is obvious from this report on the year's work and experiences that we are facing serious economic, political and international problems. We here in the United States have a tremendous responsibility to maintain our high, radiating vitality, wholesome health, and competence in achieving goals. We are a comparatively young nation, and we have not yet developed all our resources and untouched by decadence. We are experiencing inflation of a serious degree, but our economic system, with all its faults, is superior in character, which are lowering some prices while still other forces are moving prices upward. By collective effort, with the aid and technical ability to deal with this problem of putting real buying power into wage earners' hands, we can keep production on a high-level, thus promoting higher material standards of living for all.

In the field of government we see a failure on the part of political parties to come to grips with the fundamental, urgent problems which must be met. The most basic of these is the preservation of free, democratic forms, that it is not sacrificed while we regulate our interrelated complexities of modern industry to the benefit of the people, and that we preserve the human beings and the commodities they produce, never losing sight of the fact that all human activity should serve the welfare of the people.

Growing discontent with existing political procedures and objectives will lead to more powerful demands for a thorough understanding of the functions and responsibilities of political government and its relationship to economic government, operating through private organizations.

In the international field we are witnessing the cold tarvor of a gigantic conspiracy to build a world empire by world dictatorship and a Communist regime—this to be accomplished by treachery and aggression and by killing opportunities for freedom.

We who love freedom must lead in defeating this conspiracy. We urge the delegates to this 67th Convention to pledge themselves to serve in the coming crusade for freedom and to pledge their service in initiating a chain which will unite us all in the maintenance and defense of human life and freedom. Let us arm ourselves for the world crisis with a determination that will make us invincible.

For Release Nov. 15:

Union Benefit Payments Over $60 Million in '47

Cincinnati.—The Executive Council reported a new record payment of $60,103,986 in various benefits to members of the standard national, international, and unions affiliated directly with the AFL.

This total, which covers the year 1947, would have been larger had all unions submitted complete data for inclusion in the final report.

Benefits paid included those for death, sickness, unemployment, old age, disability and for other purposes, in addition according to the specific provisions of the benefit plans adopted by the unions.

Miscellaneous benefits, chiefly in benefits and death payments ranked in that order in terms of the total dollar value paid out to union members. Payments made for sickness and disability of union members represented the smallest share of the total disbursements.

According to the report 3 unions' benefit payments accounted for more than half of the record total disbursed under the plans. Topping the list was the International Ladies Garment Workers Union with payments of $15,081,835, nearly all of which was classified as miscellaneous benefits. The International Typographical Union reported a total of $11,482,956 disbursed to its members, split almost equally between old-age and miscellaneous benefits. In third place was the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. This union disbursed over $8,000,000, with 3 classifications: death, sick, and miscellaneous benefits, accounting for over $2,000,000 each.

Twenty-five of the reporting unions advised the AFL that they had paid no international benefits during the year.

AFL Units Convene on Note of Real Optimism; Taft-Hartley Law Repeal Expected of Congress

Metal, Building and Union Label Trades Meet; Frey Says Election Means T-H Law Repeal, Gray Hits Failure of Home Builders

Cincinnati.—Conventions of the Metal Trades, Building and Construction Trades, and Union Label Trades departments in session here furnished an optimistic overview on the action expected at the main AFL convention which follows.

Delegates to the departmental meetings, enthusiastically plunged into consideration of problems ahead with an air of confidence that the labor movement faced a far better future now than was expected on the eve of the recent election.

John P. Frey, veteran AFL leader and president of its Metal Trades Department, sensed the attitude of the attendants when he summarized what he said in opening his department's convention:

"All of the time there hung over our heads the 'Sword of Damocles' the Taft-Hartley Act, which contained more hidden provisions than any law ever enacted by Congress.

"The election so far as we are concerned is the assurance that the Taft-Hartley Act will be repealed."

Despite the encouraging signs, Mr. Frey warned that the labor movement must give serious consideration to what will replace the T-H law, if in fact that law is repealed, in order that all of labor's rights will be protected. He also pointed out the seriousness of the high cost of living and the monetary tensions in our relations with Soviet Russia as additional problems deserving the sober attention of the labor movement.

Highlighting the Building and Construction Trades conclave was an attack by its president, Richard Gray, on the building industry for its failure to solve the housing crisis which has gripped the nation.

He challenged charges made by builders that they are turning out sufficient numbers of new dwellings. During the past year, he said, only 600,000 homes were started, 20 percent less than the minimum needed.

Mr. Gray declared that there is no real solution to the problem of inadequate housing and that is to enact legislation like the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill to provide for construction of homes for low-income groups financed low-rent projects.

Officials of the Union Label Trades Department in a report to their convention called for a greater campaign to make each and every union member conscious of the need to buy items made goods of labor and thus help to preserve and advance the high standards of living in this nation. The potential influence of purchasing power held by trade union members and their families is an overlooked but important factor in our economy, the report declared, which if channeled properly can protect labor's gains on all fronts.

For Release Nov. 15:

Soviet Russia Charged With Attempts To Use United Nations to Promote Aims

Cincinnati.—The AFL Executive Council charged that the Soviet Union, with its aggressive, expansionist foreign policy, is trying to "divert the United Nations to its own sectarian purposes," and caused the Berlin crisis with its violation of the 4-power control of the German capital.

In a section of its report to the convention devoted to foreign policy, the council called for strong support of those agreements letween nations as the way to world peace, and praised the western powers for their willingness to enter into such agreements. The report declared:

"Contracts are the device of western European peoples for meeting the conditions under which they work together. As they make such agreements, both parties make concessions for reaching the widest area of agreement. Order results from faithful fulfillment of contracts.

"When nations, disciplined to abide by agreements, find they are dealing with other nations which exact the benefits from agreements but refuse to accept their obligations under contracts, orderly relations do not develop. When groups place a premium on facility in making and breaking contracts unilateral, efforts at cooperation usually fail.

"This background highlights present day diplomacy and sustained joint efforts through the United Nations to make adjustments that will forestall resort to force. War can now unleash such terrifying forces and destructive weapons, that it means the destruction of populations.

"We find the way forward blocked by the inability of the Security Council to function as it was under the charter.

"We find planned abuse of the veto power accorded to permanent members of the council.

"We find intolerant and aggressive use by Soviet representatives of membership in the United Nations.

"We find refusal of member states to cooperate with investigating agencies.

"We have seen the smaller countries of eastern Europe overwhelmed by the conditions under which they work together. As the agreements between nations as the way to world peace, and praised the western powers for their willingness to enter into such agreements. The report declared:

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For Release Nov. 15:

Council Urges Use of Marshall Plan Fund To Develop Better European Economy

Cincinnati.—The Executive Council advocated the use of European recovery funds to "develop a European economy, not separate economies of various states."

In its report to the AFL convention, the council declared that such action would constitute "an important step in safeguarding democratic institutions in all regions and in checking plans to impose communism on other countries."

Asserting that a European federation would be an essential step in assuring peace, with "no union there is political, economic, and military strength," the council declared that which may contribute to the formation of a federation, "should be done."

"Customs barriers on all state boundaries, separate economies and provisions for defense have been an extensive drain on all European states. The Benelux Customs Agreement is evidence of recognition of this fact. The Inter-European Monetary Compensation Agreement and also the Committee on European Cooperation is additional evidence. Under this agreement 10 countries clear their trade balances for adjustment through the Bank of International Settlements. The primary obstacle in carrying out these plans is the unsoundness of various national moneys.

"The third important forerunner of new European institutions is the British resolution proposing the establishment of a Council of Western Europe, followed by a conference in The Hague, with Great Britain joined with 4 continental states—Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, and France. This organization constitutes a nucleus from which federation may come."

Turning to a discussion of Soviet Russia's attempts to sabotage and destroy the Marshall Plan for European aid, the council offered evidence that the Communists hope not only to ruin the United States' aid effort but to communize the world. The report said:

"Beginning with the initial European conference on the Marshall Plan the USSR opposed the proposal and defied the satellite nations not to participate. The Cominform, or International Information Bureau, was set up to disseminate the Communist line to all countries and to coordinate

"Then there began world-wide Communist demonstrations and movements in aggression.

"The Communist overthrow and demonstration against the Organization of American States convening in Bogota, with uprisings in Costa Rica.

"Communist uprisings in Burma, Malay, and Indonesia;

"Communist military offensive in China;

"Communist strikes and demonstrations in Italy, France, and Palestine;

"Communist demonstrations against the Mundt-Nixon bill in the United States and renewed efforts to control unions."

AFL Label Trades Urged to Map New 'Buy Union' Drive

Cincinnati.—Officers of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department urged a great campaign to promote the wider purchase of union made goods and services.

In a report to the convention here, the Executive Board recommended the following 6-point program for the conduct of the intensive drive:

1. The officials of the affiliated unions call upon the officers and members of their local unions to cooperate with central union label leagues in communities where none now exist.

2. If there is a union label league functioning, a special effort be made to increase the effectiveness of the league.

3. Form women's auxiliaries to central labor unions and local unions.

4. Encourage the formation of a speakers' bureau in the union label leagues and women's auxiliaries to furnish speakers for meetings, organizations for the purpose of outlining the benefits of union label, shop card, merchandise and the patronage of unionmade goods and services.

5. Organize through local union label leagues and auxiliaries effective publicity committees for the preparation of material to be used by the speakers' bureau.

6. Use "the radio wherever possible."

The board outlined the potential purchasing power of AFL union members and pointed out the tremendous influence upon our economy such purchasing power can exert. The report said:

"With the members of their families the 10,000,000 members of AFL unions and women's auxiliaries form the greatest organized consumer market in the world. Taking an average of 3 per family and allowing for all men and women members there are almost 25,000,000 consumers in this group which receive their livelihood through the collective bargaining system. When one considers the high cost of living today it is easily understood that the purchasing power of these unionfinanced consumers runs into billions of dollars. It forms one of the most powerful economic forces that can be employed by union labor to maintain union labor standards which, in turn, is the very foundation of the socalled 'American way of life.' It is because our own members with the members of their families and friends have this powerful factor in our economy and which further means the protection of all purchasing power in America, that we ardently stress and constantly urge every member of all our affiliated unions in the AFL and every member of his household to constantly demand the union label, shop card and button. Thus, through intelligent buying, we help maintain our best standards and thereby our economic life in the American way."

PRATT APPOINTED CHIEF IN ECA PARIS OFFICE

Washington.—Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul G. Hoffman recently announced the appointment of Foster J. Pratt as chief of the Mission Liaison Section of the Labor Division of the ECA Paris office.

The Mission Liaison Section is one of the largest units in the Labor Division which is headed by Boris Shishkin. Pratt will have responsibility for maintaining close contact with the labor advisers to the Marshall Plan countries. A constant flow of information and advice from one country to another and from the United States to Paris will be one of his chief functions.

Since 1942, Pratt has been president of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions. The AFL unit was born in Minneapolis and educated at the University of Washington. He is 52, married and has two daughters and two sons. He has served in many technical and scientific publications, and is a member of the Association of Scientists, the American Society of Military Engineers and the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

Pratt succeeds George P. Delaney, who resigned to become executive representative of the American Federation of Labor.

NLRB CASE BACKLOG DOWN IN SEPTEMBER

Washington.—Cases pending with the National Labor Relations Board dropped from 3,246 to 3,240 by the end of September for the fifth consecutive monthly decline, the NLRB reported.

A total of 4,684 cases were disposed of during September, the board said, compared with the 3,078 new cases filed. The number of new cases filed is down 12 percent from the August figure.

Of the 3,082 cases filed in September, 2,221 involved petitions for elections, 453 alleged unfair labor practices by employers and 116 alleged unfair labor practices by unions.

Convention Atmosphere One of Jubilation Over Reversal of Reactionary Trend; Hope Seen for Liberal Legislation

Cincinnati.—Enthused by the results of the recent election which reversed the reactionary trend begun by the 80th Republican Congress, delegates to the 67th convention of the American Federation of Labor gathered here for what amounted to a victory celebration.

As AFL President William Green rapped the gavel calling the session to order, representatives of the AFL's 105 national and international unions and their combined 8,000,000 members were confident that the Taft-Hartley law, which threatened the very destruction of the labor movement, would be repealed by the 81st Congress.

This attitude of optimism was reflected in the comments of delegates to the conventions of the AFL's Metal Trades, Building Trades and Union Label Trades Departments, which raised the curtain on the main AFL sessions.

A call for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and reenactment of the original Wagner Act was expected to head the list of major recommendations of the AFL convention. It is probable that the delegates will insist on outright repeal of the "union-busting" law at the first session of the new Congress. Such action would carry out the pledge of the nation's legislators to the 15,000,000 of the American people, it was said.

The delegates also were expected to approve a broad legislative program calling for inflation control, effective housing legislation, improvements in the social security system, a high minimum wage, federal aid to education, national health insurance, a civil rights program, higher pay for federal employes, and a strong foreign policy geared to the Marshall plan adequate national defense program.

With hopes revived for the prompt realization of these legislative goals as a result of the outcome of the election, the convention is expected to call for continued and intensified political activity in the interest and extend the gains won this year. It is likely that the AFL's political arm, Labor's League for Political Education, will be reorganized on a permanent basis and authorized to prepare immediately for the congressional campaign in 1950.

While committees prepare programs to be submitted to the convention for its action, Democratic Party leaders and the Truman administration officials are expected to throw the spotlight on outstanding domestic and foreign problems.

Unable to attend the convention in person, President Truman announced he would send a special message.

Senator-elect Hubert W. Humphrey of Minneapolis, popular young liberal heads the list of important figures who will make addresses. Others include Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin; Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul G. Hoffman; Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director Cyrus Ching; Assistant to the President John R. Steelman; Oscar Ewing, Federal Security Administrator; National Commander Perry Brown of the American Legion; and Commander-in-Chief Lyall T. Beggs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Special reports will be made to the convention by Irving Brown and Henry Rutz, the AFL's European representatives, and a representative of German and Austrian trade unions who have come to the United States at the AFL's invitation.

In addition, it is expected that fraternal delegates from the British Trade Union Congress and the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress will address the AFL delegates.

Organizing Campaigns Reviewed by AFL Council

Cincinnati.—The Executive Council, in its report to the AFL convention, declared that "organizing possibilities of the future are exceedingly bright," especially in the South and Southwest.

The council said that industrial workers, on the whole, are showing an increasing interest in unionism and that the American Federation of Labor is benefiting.

Reporting on organizing success in the field of federal labor union jurisdiction, the council's report asserted that, while average membership declined slightly, the number of federal labor unions had been established as of July 27, 1948.

The bulk of the report was devoted to an explanation of the ill-effects of the Taft-Hartley law upon organizing activities. The council declared:

"The problem of organizing workers has become more difficult during the past year. The full impact of the Taft-Hartley Act was felt upon the organization of contracts entered into before the law became law. As a result, the staff was compelled to devote a great deal of time to the entirely unnecessary procedure of union elections. Such elections are nearly 100 percent successful in the case of AFL unions. Most votes were overwhelmingly in favor of the AFL affiliated unions. Many unaffiliated labor union elections, but aided thousands of international union locals in conducting elections.

"The Taft-Hartley Act placed another burden on both federal and international unions in the form of the non-Communist affidavit of organizers. All local unions were required to fill out forms on financial structure with the registration office of the international union and with the National Labor Relations Board on the non-Communist affidavit in order to comply with the act.

"Another burdensome feature of the act, which will cause more trouble in the future, will undoubtedly be the necessity of representatives at any time an employer expresses a doubt and asks for an election."

Reporting on the special Southern Organizing Campaign, the council said that in spite of the difficulties placed in the path by the Taft-Hartley law and antilabor legislation at the state level, "more progress has been made than in previous years in the field of organization."

"The increased decentralization is being carried on by the AFL's affiliated unions, the report said.

BUILDING SERVICE WORKERS WIN NEW WAGE INCREASES

Philadelphia.—Members of Local 69 of the AFL's Building Service Employes Union have received new terms of a new agreement effective Nov. 1.

Male maintenance employes, porters and elevator operators will receive a pay boost of $2 a week which brought minimums in most buildings to $45 for a 40-hour week.

In addition, cleaning women now receive $1 a week more and if they have been employed for 10 years or more are paid $40 a week for a straight 5-cent hourly increase.

AFL's SWITCHMEN'S UNION WINS REPRESENTATION POLL

Washington.—The National Mediation Board certified the AFL's Switchmen's Union of North America as collective bargaining agent for firemen, helpers and switchtenders employed by the Great Northern Railway Co.

Action by the board followed an election among the railroad's employes in which 820 workers out of 1,125 eligible employes voted for the AFL union.

ECA AID LOWERS COST ON FOREIGN GIFT PARCELS

Washington.—Individual relief efforts can play an important role in European recovery, the Economic Cooperation Administration said, in urging that individuals sending gift packages can take advantage of reduced shipping rates through ECA.

With the Christmas season coming, many gifts will soon be thinking of sending gift parcels to friends and relatives in Europe, the agency said.

It reminded that reduced shipping rates under ECA are available to persons who send such parcels to most Marshall Plan countries, the ECA said.

ECA has issued three regulations under which shippers can be helped by ocean transportation costs of relief supplies and packages. The regulations provide for: (1) payments to the Post Office Department, making possible a reduction of 4 cents a pound for individual relief packages to countries receiving ECA grants; (2) for reimbursement of ocean freight charges for individual relief packages shipped by freight under a multiple bill of lading.